

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/788,672
Attorney Docket No.: Q62837

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 15, and 21 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 9-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 (claim 18 has been canceled in the previous Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed January 6, 2005).

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-17 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Since claims 1, 9-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 have been canceled, this rejection is moot with respect to these claims.

With respect to the remaining pending claims, claims 2-5 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,665,082 B1 to Takeoka et al. (hereinafter "Takeoka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,924,802 to Sakurai (hereinafter "Sakurai"), claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeoka and Sakurai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,542 to Han (hereinafter "Han"), and claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeoka and Sakurai in view of U.S. Patent No.: 5,978,921 to Ryu (hereinafter "Ryu"). These rejections are addressed in the following section.

Statement of Substance of the Interview and Prior Art Rejections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interviews on August 12 and 24, 2005. An Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) was mailed to the Applicant on August 25, 2005 and faxed to the Applicant on August 31, 2005. The PTO-413 requires the Applicant to file a Statement of Substance of the Interview. The Statement of Substance of the Interview is as follows:

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A) During the interview independent claim 2 was discussed in view of the combined teachings of Takeoka and Sakurai.

Specifically, Applicant indicated that claim 2, among a number of unique features, recites: “clearer configured to clear the printing data stored in the data buffer when the print start signal is received again from the computer or another computer after the print start detector has detected the print start signal and before the print finish detector detects the print finish signal.”

Applicant further explained that in the conventional techniques, as set forth in the background of the invention, when the cable is removed during the printer’s printing operation, the printing data is not transmitted from the computer to the printer even if the printer is plugged in again. Moreover, the print data transmitted before the print cable is removed remains in a data buffer of the printer. In that event, the printer will print so called meaningless or garbage data. In the conventional techniques, to get rid of the garbage data, the user may need to power off the printer *e.g.*, by unplugging and plugging the power cable. This prior art technique may be troublesome for the user (*see* page 1, line 35 to page 2, line 4 of the specification).

In the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, however, this data may be cleared when the print start signal is received again after the circumstance in which the print start but no print finish was previously detected. Accordingly, the printing of garbage data may be prevented. It will be appreciated that the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily limitative of any claims and are intended only to help the Examiner better understand the distinguishing aspects of the claims mentioned above.

Next, Applicant addressed the Examiner’s position as set forth on page 5, first full paragraph of the Final Office Action dated June 3, 2005 and pages 7-9 of the Non-Final Office

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Action dated October 6, 2004. Specifically, in these Office Actions, the Examiner alleged that Takeoka's controller is equivalent to the clearer based on col. 12, lines 58 to 65, which recite:

When transmission of the image data ends, data indicative of the end of printing is supplied from the printer 20 to the printer controller 10. When the printer controller 10 receives the data indicating the end of printing, the printer controller 10 applies a printer deactivation command to the printer 20. When the printer receives the printer deactivation command, the image data that has been stored in the RAM 22 is erased and the printer 20 is initialized.

The above noted paragraph of Takeoka, however, only discloses that when the printing has ended, the image data is deleted from the RAM. Sakurai is only cited for the disclosure of whether the print cable is connected (*see* page 8 of the Non-Office Action).

Accordingly, Applicant explained that if these two references are somehow combined the data will be cleared from the RAM 22 during the deactivation process and not when the start signal is received again. That is, the combined teachings of Takeoka and Sakurai do not teach or suggest a clearer that would clear the printing data when the print start signal is received again, as required by claim 2.

Claims 3-5 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 2. Claim 21 is patentable at least because it recites features similar to the features argued with respect to claim 2. Accordingly, analogous arguments are applicable to claim 21. For at least similar exemplary reasons, therefore, claim 21 is patentable over the combined teachings of Takeoka and Sakurai.

Moreover, claims 6-8 and 15 depend on claim 2. It was already demonstrated that the combined teachings of Takeoka and Sakurai fail to teach or suggest all of the unique features of claim 2. Since Han and Ryu, taken alone or in any conceivable combination, fail to cure the

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deficient teachings of Takeoka and Sakurai, claims 6-8 and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 2.

B) Matters agreed on between the Examiner and the Applicant

During the Interview on August 12, 2005, the Examiner agreed that the rejection cannot be maintained with respect to claim 2 based on the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicant indicated that the other claims may be canceled to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner indicated that he will need to do a Supplemental Search and to discuss these claims with a Supervisory Examiner. The Examiner indicated that he will report back on August 22, 2005, whether the application can be placed in condition for allowance.

On August 24, 2005, the Examiner indicated that the Supplemental Search uncovered additional prior art references and requested that Applicant files a formal response for a full and complete prosecution record. The Examiner further indicated that he will reopen prosecution by issuing a new Office Action with the newly found prior art references.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.2 and 1.133 and MPEP §713.04.

It is believed that no petition or fee is required. However, if the USPTO deems otherwise, Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

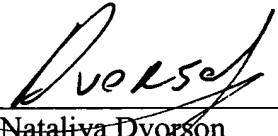
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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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